

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/830,232
Reply to Office Action dated February 7, 2006

Remarks

Applicants have read and considered the Office Action dated February 7, 2006 and the references cited therein. Claims 9, 10, 12 and 14-16 have now been amended. Claims 1-8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9-16 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, claims 9-16 were objected to for a number of informalities. Claims 9, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 16 have been amended as suggested in the Office Action to delete the objected to language. Moreover, the language regarding decoding supplied by said adapted estimated values has been amended to more accurately recite the method. Applicants assert that the objections to the claims have been overcome.

Claims 9-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite. The Action stated that claims 9, 10, 12 and 14 include the word "means" preceded by terms to recite a claim element as a means for performing a specified function, but no function following "means" is recited. All occurrences of means without an associated function have been deleted from the claims and replaced by structural language. Applicants assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph has been overcome.

Claims 9-14 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph and the claim objections set forth in the Action. In addition claims 15 and 16 would be allowable if amended to overcome the claim objections set forth in the Office Action. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants assert that the objections to the claims and the indefiniteness rejections have been overcome.

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Applicants assert that the claims are in condition for allowance. A speedy and favorable action on the merits is hereby solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicants' representative at (612) 336-4728.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.

Dated:

7/7/06

By:



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GAS/km